

The Intel 8051

This is Intel's newest and highest performance single chip micro-processor. Included in the 40 pin package are the processor, 4K Bytes of program memory (equivalent to 2 2716 EPROMS), 128 bytes of RAM, two sixteen bit counter/timers, a sophisticated interrupt system, and up to 32 input/output lines. A special input/output section provides a true "UART", which is essential for serial communications of the type used in phone-link systems.

A call to the Intel sales office today (5 Dec, 1980) provided the following price schedule:

1981: \$15 (10K); \$13.75 (25K); \$12.00 (50K)

1982: \$12 (10K); \$10.00 (25K); \$8.50 (50K)

These prices are remarkable. Intel has finally gotten tired of designing parts, charging high prices for them, and then being eaten alive by other manufacturers of their design. These prices indicate that Intel intends to be the (price) leader in the 8051 right from the beginning. Intel has announced to the world that they are a "new" Intel, which will not shy away from the "popcorn" (commodity) business, as they have in the past. I viewed this announcement with skepticism, since I have heard Intel claim this about every year for the past three years. These 8051 prices are the first clear indication that they indeed mean business.

Alternate sources look good. It is a good bet that all 8048 suppliers (the 8048 is the 8051's predecessor) will move into the 8051 as a

necessary family growth. These suppliers include National Semi,
NEC, Toshiba, and AMD. National confirmed that they are committed
to the part in my factory visit in November 1980.

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